



Fact Sheet

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REPUBLICAN RECKLESSNESS: Since 2011, House GOP Has Been Working to Slash Key Initiatives That Help Keep American Families Safe and Secure

Highlights:

A number-one concern of Americans is ensuring that their families, their neighborhoods, and their communities are safe.

Americans believe that we need to give our police officers, our firefighters, our homeland security officials, and our other first responders all the resources and support that they need to carry out their mission: to keep us safe. In an uncertain era, as our nation confronts terrorism and threats such as ISIS and al Qaeda, Americans' concerns about the safety of their families have, if anything, grown greater. And, in this uncertain era, our first responders are being asked to do even more to keep us safe.

And yet, since they took control of the House in 2011, House Republicans have been undermining Americans' security by slashing initiatives to keep Americans safe and by denying police officers, firefighters, other first responders, emergency management personnel and others responsible for public safety the resources they need to protect us.

Although Congressional Democrats have worked hard to counter GOP efforts to slash these key initiatives, the power of being in the Majority has allowed House Republicans – in their unceasing efforts to slash federal investments, even in worthwhile, proven initiatives – to be quite successful in cutting these investments. (The cuts below would be even larger if inflation had been taken into account.)

Since Republicans first took control of the House in 2011, the following are some of the results of the relentless GOP efforts to slash or eliminate key initiatives to keep American neighborhoods and families safe and secure:

- **Undermining Resources for Assistance for First Responders:** Investment in State Homeland Security (First Responder) Grants, which are used in part to meet the needs of first responders, including hiring, training and equipping first responders to respond to terrorist attacks and catastrophic incidents, has been slashed by 51 percent.
- **Undermining Security of High-Risk Urban Areas:** Investment in the Urban Area Security Initiative, which helps high-risk urban communities to prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, has been slashed by 32 percent.
- **Undermining Port Security:** Investment in Port Security Grants, which fund infrastructure and equipment to help ensure the overall security of passengers, cargo, and crewmembers at U.S. ports, has been slashed by 67 percent.

- **Undermining Transit Security:** Investment in Transit Security Grants, which help transit systems in high-threat areas take needed steps to enhance the security of their millions of passengers, has been slashed by 67 percent.
- **Undermining Interoperable Communications for First Responders:** Investment in the Interoperable Communications Program, which was used to ensure firefighters and emergency responders were able to talk to each other during a terrorist incident or other emergency and which received \$50 million in FY 2010, has been eliminated.
- **Undermining Ensuring Firefighters Have the Equipment They Need:** Investment in Firefighter Assistance Grants, which are used for purchasing critical equipment and paying for training for firefighters, has been cut by 18 percent.
- **Undermining Resources for Hiring Firefighters:** Investment in SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grants, which help fund the hiring of additional firefighters in order to ensure safe staffing levels, has been cut by 11 percent.
- **Undermining Efforts to Promote Community Policing That Makes Neighborhoods Safer:** Investment in the overall Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program, which has funded such programs as the COPS Hiring Program, COPS Technology and Interoperability Program, and Secure Our Schools Initiative, has been slashed by 64 percent.
- **Undermining Efforts to Hire More Cops on the Beat:** Investment in the successful COPS Hiring Program, which helps communities hire more police officers for community policing, has been slashed by 37 percent.
- **Undermining Efforts to Cut Juvenile Crime:** Investment in Juvenile Justice initiatives, which make our neighborhoods safer by reducing juvenile crime, has been cut by 15 percent.

These cuts, pushed by the GOP, are steep but they are not as deep as what Republicans have actually wanted to achieve. Here are two examples:

- **While Republicans Have Repeatedly Tried to Abolish the COPS Hiring Program, So Far Democrats Have Been Able to Save It:** The fact that the COPS Hiring Program has only been cut by 37 percent, rather than abolished, is due to the efforts of Democrats. Ever since they took power in January 2011, House Republicans have been attempting to abolish the program. When House Republicans brought H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full-Year CR, to the House Floor in February 2011, the bill abolished the COPS Hiring Program. Fortunately, Democrats offered an amendment to restore the program's funding and the amendment passed, but 71 percent of House Republicans voted against the amendment. [\[2011 Vote #53\]](#) Ever since 2011, House Republicans have continued to try to kill the program. Most recently, in June 2015, House Republicans voted once again to abolish the COPS Hiring Program when they passed H.R. 2578, the House GOP FY 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science funding bill. [\[2015 Vote #297\]](#)
- **While Republicans Voted to Roll Several Successful Homeland Security Initiatives, Including the State Homeland Security Grants, into One Block Grant and Slash Funding by 55 Percent, Democrats Have Succeeded in Preserving These Initiatives and Scaled Back the Cuts.** In voting for H.R. 2017, the House GOP FY 2012 Homeland Security funding bill, House Republicans voted to roll nine key successful state and local security grants (including State Homeland Security Grants, Urban Area Security Initiative, Transit Security Grants, and Port Security Grants) into a block grant and to slash the funding by 55 percent – from \$2.2 billion in FY 2011 to \$1 billion in FY 2012. [\[2011 Vote #409\]](#)

More Details and Background:

A More Complete List of Homeland Security and Law Enforcement Initiatives That Republicans Have Succeeded in Cutting Since January 2011

Since the Republicans took control of the House in January 2011, they have worked to indiscriminately cut key homeland security and law enforcement initiatives. Although in many years the efforts of Congressional Democrats and the Obama Administration have been successful in making the final enacted cuts less deep than what the Republicans originally were proposing, the results of GOP efforts to slash investments in key initiatives are still quite striking.

Following are 11 key homeland security initiatives whose appropriations have been dramatically cut, or completely eliminated, since January 2011 when the Republicans took control of the House:

- **State Homeland Security (First Responder) Grants:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for the State Homeland Security Grant Program has been slashed by more than half – by 51 percent. These grants are used to meet the needs of first responders, including hiring, training and equipping first responders to respond to terrorist attacks and catastrophic incidents.
- **Urban Area Security Initiative:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative has been slashed by one-third – by 32 percent. The Urban Area Security Initiative helps high-risk urban communities to prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks.
- **Port Security Grants:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for the Port Security Grant Program has been slashed by two-thirds – by 67 percent. Port Security Grants fund infrastructure and equipment to help ensure the overall security of passengers, cargo, and crewmembers at U.S. ports.
- **Transit Security Grants:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for the Transit Security Grant Program has been slashed by two-thirds – by 67 percent. Transit Security Grants help transit systems in high-threat areas take needed steps to enhance the security of their millions of passengers.
- **Interoperable Communications Program:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for the Interoperable Communications Program, which received \$50 million in FY 2010, has been completely eliminated. Funding for Interoperable Communications was used to ensure firefighters and emergency responders were able to talk to each other during a terrorist attack or other emergency.
- **Firefighter Assistance Grants:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for Firefighter Assistance Grants has been slashed by 18 percent or \$75 million (even without adjusting for inflation). Firefighter Assistance Grants are used for paying for critical equipment and training for firefighters.
- **SAFER Grants:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for SAFER Grants has been cut by 11 percent or \$45 million (even without adjusting for inflation). The effective, popular SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) program helps fund the hiring of additional firefighters in order to ensure safe staffing levels.
- **Metropolitan Medical Response System:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for the Metropolitan Medical Response System, which received \$41 million in FY 2010, has been completely eliminated. The Metropolitan Medical Response System program provided funding for hospitals and EMS service in major metropolitan areas to enhance their preparedness.
- **Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grants:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grants, which received \$35 million in FY 2010, has been completely eliminated. These grants were used to enhance catastrophic incident preparedness in selected high-risk, high-consequence urban areas.
- **Buffer Zone Protection Grants:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for Buffer Zone Protection Grants, which received \$50 million in 2010, has been completely eliminated. These grants were used to enhance security around critical infrastructure and key assets, including chemical facilities, financial institutions, nuclear and electric power plants, dams, and stadiums.
- **Emergency Operations Centers:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for Emergency Operations Centers, which received \$60 million in FY 2010, has been completely eliminated. The

Emergency Operations Centers are state and local facilities necessary to ensure continuity of operations and continuity of government in major disasters caused by any hazard.

Also, following are six key law enforcement programs whose appropriations have been dramatically cut since January 2011 when the Republicans took control of the House:

- **State and Local Law Enforcement Activities Overall:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities overall has been slashed by nearly half – by 41 percent.
- **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program Overall:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program overall has been slashed by nearly two-thirds – by 64 percent.
- **COPS Hiring Program:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for the COPS Hiring Program has been slashed by more than one-third – by 37 percent.
- **Juvenile Justice Initiatives, Such As Youth Mentoring Grants:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for Juvenile Justice initiatives has been cut by 15 percent. These programs, such as Youth Mentoring Grants, make our neighborhoods safer by reducing juvenile crime.
- **Byrne Justice Assistance Grants:** Since FY 2010, under a GOP-controlled House, funding for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants has been cut by 8 percent. Byrne Justice Assistance Grants are used by local law enforcement agencies for a broad range of activities to better fight crime and protect neighborhoods.

Examples of Some of the Radical GOP Appropriations Bills That House Republicans Have Voted For

When They Voted for H.R. 1, FY 2011 CR, House Republicans Voted for Radical Cuts in Homeland Security and Law Enforcement Initiatives

- **On February 19, 2011, in Voting for H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full-Year CR, Republicans Voted to Slash Key Homeland Security Initiatives.** House Republicans voted for a radical bill, which, among other things, slashed funding for overall Homeland Security Grants (FEMA State and Local Program Grants) by one-third, when they passed H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full-Year CR, on February 19, 2011. [\[2011 Vote #147\]](#) In voting for passage of H.R. 1, House Republicans:
 - **Overall Homeland Security Grants (FEMA State and Local Program Grants):** Voted to slash the overall Homeland Security Grants (FEMA State and Local Program Grants) by 32 percent or \$962 million below the FY 2010 level.
 - **Port Security Grants:** Voted to slash the Port Security Grant program by 67 percent or \$200 million below the FY 2010 level.
 - **Transit Security Grants:** Voted to slash the Transit Security Grant program by 67 percent or \$200 million.
 - **State Homeland Security (First Responder) Grants:** Voted to cut State Homeland Security (First Responder) Grants by 5 percent or \$50 million.
 - **Urban Areas Security Initiative:** Voted to cut the Urban Areas Security Initiative by 10 percent or \$87 million.
 - **Interoperable Communications:** Voted to completely eliminate the Interoperable Communications program, which received \$50 million in FY 2010 and which had been used to ensure firefighters and emergency responders were able to talk to each other during a terrorist incident or other emergency .
 - **Emergency Operations Centers:** Voted to completely eliminate funding for Emergency Operations Centers, which received \$60 million in FY 2010 and which are state and local facilities necessary to ensure continuity of operations and continuity of government in major disasters caused by any hazard.

- **Buffer Zone Protection Grants:** Voted to completely eliminate Buffer Zone Protection Grants, which received \$50 million in FY 2010 and which had provided grants to enhance security around critical infrastructure and key assets, including chemical facilities, financial institutions, nuclear and electric power plants, dams, and stadiums.
 - **Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grants:** Voted to completely eliminate the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grants, which received \$35 million in FY 2010 and which had been used to enhance catastrophic incident preparedness in selected high-risk, high-consequence urban areas and their surrounding regions.
 - **Border Security Infrastructure and Technology, Including Border Surveillance Technology:** Voted to slash Border Security Technology by 44 percent or \$350 million, slowing efforts to better secure the border with new and much-needed border surveillance technologies.
- **On February 19, 2011, in Voting for H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full-Year CR, Republicans Voted to Slash Key Law Enforcement Initiatives.** House Republicans voted for a radical bill, which, among other things, slashed funding for overall State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance programs by 27 percent or \$1 billion, when they passed H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full-Year CR, on February 19, 2011. [\[2011 Vote #147\]](#) In voting for passage of H.R. 1, House Republicans:
 - **Overall State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Programs:** Voted to slash overall State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance programs by 27 percent or \$1 billion below the FY 2010 level. Such a drastic reduction would have had significant impacts on criminal justice activities and law enforcement operations and personnel across the country. It would have translated into 3,838 fewer criminal justice jobs. These state and local law enforcement assistance programs include the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants program, Community Oriented Policing Services, Violence Against Women Act programs, and National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) grants.
 - **Juvenile Justice Grants:** Voted to slash Juvenile Justice Grants by 45 percent or \$191 million below the FY 2010 level. These Juvenile Justice Grants include funding for youth mentoring, block grants and formula grants to states, delinquency prevention grants, child abuse investigation and prosecution grants, and Community-Based Violence Prevention. Such deep cuts would have made neighborhoods less safe.

When They Voted for the House GOP FY 2012 Homeland Security Funding Bill, House Republicans Once Again Voted for Radical Cuts

- **On June 2, 2011, in Voting for H.R. 2017, FY 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations, Republicans Voted Once Again to Slash Key Homeland Security Initiatives.** House Republicans once again voted for a radical bill which, among other things, block granted nine key state and local security grants and slashed their funding by 55 percent, when they passed H.R. 2017, FY 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations on June 2, 2011. [\[2011 Vote #409\]](#) In voting for passage of H.R. 2017, House Republicans:
 - **Block-Granting Nine Key State and Local Security Grants:** Voted to roll nine key state and local security grants (including State Homeland Security Grants, Urban Area Security Initiative, Transit Security Grants, and Port Security Grants) into a block grant and slash the funding by 55 percent – from \$2.2 billion in FY 2011 to \$1 billion in FY 2012.
 - **Homeland Security R&D Programs:** Voted to slash homeland security R&D funding by 42 percent or – from \$688 million in FY 2011 to \$398 million in FY 2012. Slashing R&D funding by 42 percent would have required the elimination of a broad range of research projects, including areas such as biological and explosives detection, advanced cyber security, and interoperability.
 - **SAFER Grants:** Voted to slash SAFER grants by 17 percent or \$69 million below the FY 2011 level. The popular, effective SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) program helps fund the hiring of additional firefighters in order to ensure safe staffing levels.
 - **Firefighter Assistance Grants:** Voted to slash Firefighter Assistance grants by Firefighter Assistance Grants by 17 percent or \$69 million below the FY 2011 level. The popular, effective

Firefighter Assistance Grant program is used for such purposes as purchasing critical equipment and paying for training for firefighters.

When They Voted for the House GOP FY 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science Funding Bill, House Republicans Once Again Voted for Radical Cuts

- **On June 3, 2015, in Voting for H.R. 2578, FY 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations, Republicans Voted Once Again to Slash Key Law Enforcement Initiatives.** House Republicans once again voted for a radical bill which, among other things, completely eliminated the popular, effective COPS Hiring Grants program, when they passed H.R. 2578, FY 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations on June 3, 2015. [\[2015 Vote #297\]](#) In voting for passage of H.R. 2578, House Republicans:
 - **COPS Hiring Grants:** Voted to completely eliminate ALL funding for the successful COPS Hiring Grants Program, which had received \$180 million in FY 2015. Had it been funded at the President's request, this program would have provided for the hiring of approximately 1,300 new law enforcement professionals.
 - **Juvenile Justice Initiatives:** Voted to slash funding for vital Juvenile Justice initiatives by 27 percent or \$68 million below the FY 2015 level. Among these severe cuts, the GOP bill also completely eliminated entirely several worthwhile juvenile justice programs, including the Community-Based Violence Initiative and the Local Delinquency Prevention Incentive grant program.